



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
New York Field Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2007

Contact: Special Agent Joseph Green
(646) 529-8354

NEW YORK ATF AGENTS AND FEDERAL PROSECUTORS RECEIVE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HONORED AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CEREMONY FOR WORK ON CASE OF TWO MURDERED NYPD DETECTIVES

NEW YORK - William G. McMahon, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), New York Field Division, and Roslynn R. Mauskopf, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, today announced that five ATF agents and four Assistant United States Attorneys were honored by the U.S. Department of Justice in receiving the Distinguished Service Award, the Department's second highest award, for their roles in the investigation, meticulous trial preparation, and skillful advocacy in securing convictions of the killers of New York City Police Detectives Rodney Andrews and James Nemorin. ATF Special Agents Thomas Shelton, Jon Ellwanger, Andrew Hilt, and Keltar Mui and ATF Supervisor Thomas Kelly, along with Assistant United States Attorneys Jack Smith, Colleen Kavanagh, and Morris Fodeman (Eastern District of New York), and Glen G. McGorty (Southern District of New York) were presented their awards by Acting U.S. Attorney General Peter Keisler at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The award recipients were selected from among distinguished lawyers and dedicated law enforcement professionals from across the nation.

On March 10, 2003, Detectives Nemorin and Andrews were brutally executed in the line of duty while working undercover, buying illegal firearms from a vicious gang that had terrorized Staten Island neighborhoods for years. The agents and prosecutors systematically built their case, secured guilty pleas from several of the gang members, and brought a federal capital case against the shooter, Ronell Wilson. Ultimately, the jury unanimously found Wilson guilty of the crimes charged and his conduct worthy of capital punishment.

Special Agent-in-Charge McMahon said, "The brutal murders of Detectives Andrews and Nemorin should be a constant reminder of just how dangerous undercover operations can be, especially when buying guns. As a result of the dedication and professionalism of the agents and

prosecutors, we were able to arrest, prosecute, and convict those violent gang members responsible for the murders, and I commend the agents and prosecutors who saw this case through to its successful conclusion. Justice has been served.”

“We remember the service and sacrifice of NYPD Detectives Rodney Andrews and James Nemorin as we congratulate the men and women who are being honored today,” stated United States Attorney Mauskopf. “These two fallen heroes have touched all of us, and they continue to serve as an inspiration to those who safeguard our nation and our system of justice.”

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

###